

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO TARBUT V'TORAH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

HON. MIMI WALTERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School (TVT) for recently having been ranked the number one private school for academics in Orange County, California from niche.com. TVT was also recognized as being the number one Jewish school for academics in the nation by Niche. As a result of their outstanding accomplishments, TVT was recently presented with a certificate of recognition from the County of Orange for achieving these excellent honors. Today, I applaud TVT for their tremendous academic accomplishments.

TVT, a Jewish day school with over 500 students, is a nurturing, caring community that embraces pluralism, cultivates Jewish identity and inspires students to lead meaningful Jewish lives. The school is known for its individualized college preparatory environment, which challenges students to think critically, work collaboratively, and explore creatively in order to realize their fullest potential. TVT also strives to encourage students to be inquisitive learners, compassionate citizens and courageous leaders in their community and in the world.

The success of TVT students is demonstrated through their exceptional standardized test scores and high acceptance rates into our nation's top universities. For example, the acceptance rate of TVT students to Stanford University is 12.1 percent, in comparison with the 5.1 percent national average. The acceptance ratios for other top universities are as follows: UC Berkeley, 41.7 percent vs. 17 percent; USC, 53 vs. 17.8 percent, and UCLA, 31 vs. 18.2 percent. Furthermore, TVT SAT scores surpassed the national average by more than 400 points, and TVT ACT scores outranked the national average 29 to 21.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the students, faculty, and those who govern the school, for their accomplishments and academic success within the community. It is an honor to represent such an accomplished school in the United States Congress, and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING PHILIP B. PHILLIPS FOR BEING SELECTED FOR THE NAIOP OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE TRADE ASSOCIATION'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great Floridian businessman,

Mr. Philip B. Phillips, founder of the real estate development firm Phillips & Co, on receiving the NAIOP of Northeast Florida commercial real estate trade association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Phillips founded Phillips & Co in 1986, and since then his firm has completed more than 1 million square feet of projects in Jacksonville, Orlando and Pensacola. He is a pillar in the Jacksonville business community, and a valuable partner in the economic growth and development of Northeast Florida.

Under Mr. Phillips' skillful leadership, his commercial real estate firm was responsible for constructing some of the largest projects in the Jacksonville area. He has developed the five-building Meridian complex in Deerwood Park, the four-building Greystone Project, and the 214,000 square foot multi-phase Central Park development. These projects have added countless jobs to the Jacksonville community as well as contributed to the economic success of our Northeast Florida economy.

NAIOP is one of the foremost commercial real estate industry organizations in the United States. It provides its members with numerous networking opportunities, educational programs, industry innovations, and strong legislative representation for the commercial real estate community. NAIOP's Lifetime Achievement Award is one of the greatest honors that the organization can bestow. The award recognizes those distinguished individuals for their lifetime work in the commercial real estate industry.

Mr. Phillips is truly deserving of this very distinguished honor; and the First Coast is proud to count him among our own. His lifework exemplifies everything for which NAIOP's Lifetime Achievement Award stands for. The Jacksonville business community is forever indebted to Mr. Phillips for his lifetime contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and Members of the House to join me in this very special congressional salute to this Jacksonville Business leader, Philip B. Phillips.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in my immediate family I was unable to be present for votes on the House floor the week of February 9, 2015. Below is an explanation of how I would have voted and why.

I would have voted for H.R. 719, the TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2015 because the bill requires Transportation Security Administration Criminal Investigators to spend at least half of their time investigating individuals suspected of committing a crime.

I would have voted for H.R. 720, the Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2015 to ensure the Transportation Security

Administration has adequate emergency plans in place to handle a shooting attack at an airport.

I would have voted for H.R. 431, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I am a cosponsor of the bill.

I would have voted against S. 1, the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act because the bill allows a Canadian company to be exempt from paying its fair share into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, which could leave taxpayers on the hook for an expensive clean-up in the event of an oil spill. Furthermore, the current planned route for the pipeline runs directly over the Ogallala aquifer, putting at risk a critical freshwater supply.

I would have voted for H.R. 644, the Fighting Hunger Incentive Act of 2015 to encourage donations to charitable organizations. The bill would expand tax deductions for food donations, property conservation donations, and charitable foundations.

I would have voted for H.R. 636, the America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015 because the bill is designed to help small businesses grow and create new jobs. This bill would facilitate investment in new equipment, new property, and technology upgrades for small businesses. Providing tax relief will help level the playing field for small businesses, which will stimulate economic growth and create jobs across the country.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 431—CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR SELMA FOOT SOLDIERS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in strong support of H.R. 431, a bill that will bestow the Congressional Gold Medal upon the courageous Foot Soldiers who participated in "Bloody Sunday," "Turnaround Tuesday," and the final March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965.

As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of their displays of courage and determination, I am inspired by the thousands of citizens, from all walks of life—including my good friend and colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS—who came together to march for equal voting rights for future generations.

I commend these brave men and women for following their conviction and sacrificing their blood, sweat, and tears to bring about the change that this country so desperately needed.

However, Mr. Speaker, our work is not yet done!

It was only two years ago, when the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act by

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